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CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-0000

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29 August 1985

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FOR COUNTERTERRORISM
AND NARCOTICS, NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: FLASHBOARD Project Funding

1. As a follow-on to the recent series of meetings/discussions between members of our staffs, attached is an estimated funding projection to maintain and slightly expand the current FLASHBOARD network.

2. The focus of this projection is on communications which, as you are aware, have presented us with the most difficult problems. The investments recommended herein should go a long way toward rectifying these problems.

3. To facilitate acquisition and accounting procedures, I recommend that the mechanism for executing this projected program be a special FLASHBOARD account set up and managed at NSA. Funds would be transferred into this special account and a report vehicle back to you would serve to document fund execution.

4. It should be noted that the attached projection is for supporting the current workstation services with the use of an IBM PC and a telephone. Any enhancements to actual end user services would require additional funding projections.

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**Chief
Plans and Project Development
Telecommunications and Computer Services**

**Encl:
a/s**

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SUBJECT: FLASHBOARD Project

1. Including the four pending installations (see paragraph 6 below), FLASHBOARD is now at its maximum terminal capacity as presently configured with a single terminal controller. This paper projects the estimated funds necessary to sustain the current FLASHBOARD network as well as increase the number of terminals to about 30. The proposal is essentially in three parts: 1) reimbursement, 2) equipment support, and 3) manpower.

2. The reimbursement is a one-time repayment to cover the costs of both computer and communications components that were borrowed from ongoing projects to set up the network on a quick reaction basis. It is important to note that the computer cost reimbursement is only for the user terminal controller, an INTEL 86/380 microcomputer, not the supporting host computer nor the user terminals themselves, the latter being paid for by the individual participating agencies. The communications reimbursement is only for the voice conferencing unit purchased especially for FLASHBOARD. The reimbursement costs (approximate) are:

- a) Terminal controller
1 INTEL 86/380 (24 port) \$55K
- b) Voice conferencing unit \$35K

3. The projected equipment support costs are basically for communications improvements to sustain and add flexibility to the FLASHBOARD network, and for additional terminal controllers including backup equipments to ensure availability of services. The following are projected one-time investment costs. (There will be no charge for O&M costs.) Costs for communications and controllers are:

a) COMMUNICATIONS

The following is to build and sustain a network of 30 workstations.

Multiplexers -- Ft. Meade/Langley	\$55K
Multiplexers -- Ft. Meade/Other sites	\$75K
O&M (12K) per year (16K)	No charge

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b) WORKSTATION CONTROLLERS

The following is based on the INTEL 86/310 which is an upgraded but less expensive (\$30K) version of the INTEL 86/380 (\$55K). The current single controller is configured for 24 I/O ports and must be maintained in this configuration for acquisition and software support purposes. The basic system, to sustain 30 workstations, must be upgraded to a two-controller, 48-port system, with a second 48-port system for backup. The backup is essential not only to ensure availability of services but also because this dual controller system is a unique configuration. Costs are as follows:

1 INTEL 86/310 (to complete dual 48-port system)	\$35K
2 INTEL 86/310 (Backup system)	\$70K
O&M (12%) per year (13K)	No charge

4. MANPOWER

As with the workstation controllers and Agency communications facilities, the manpower to install, train, sustain and maintain the FLASHBOARD network has been taken "out of hide". At the outset with a network of just eight workstations, there was minimum impact. With the network up to some 20 workstations and eventually expanding to approximately 30, the cost in manpower is growing substantially. To ensure full and responsive support, the following billets should be allotted to FLASHBOARD support. This projection is based on a minimum estimate considering the network must be maintained around-the-clock, 24 hours a day.

Billets: 3

- 1 software specialist
- 1 hardware specialist
- 1 communications specialist

5. SOFTWARE

The software, which is the fundamental key to the success of the workstation remains a cost free item. The software, which is normally the costliest and riskiest part of most systems, will continue to be improved and maintained at no cost by the NSA.

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6. TERMINAL STATUS - NUMBERS ACTIVE/OWNED

The terminal acquisition will continue to be a responsibility of the individual participating elements. The following sets forth the terminal (tempest IBM PC/XT) status (Note that the term workstation applies to an overall FLASHBOARD installation including the data terminal and telephone):

ELEMENT	NUMBER OF ACTIVE TERMINALS	PENDING	NUMBER OWNED *
NSA	2		2
CIA	3		1 ‡
STATE	2		2
DIA	1	2	0
USSS	1		1
FBI	1		0
WHITE HOUSE	2	1	0
USMC	1		1
AF/OSI	1		1
NAVY/NIS	1		0
ARMY/INSCOM	1		0
JSOC	1		0
NPIC	1		0
AREA	1		1
NIO/CT		1	0

* NUMBER DENOTES OWNERSHIP OF ACTIVE TERMINALS ACQUIRED EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH REIMBURSEMENT OF NSA

‡ CIA/DDO HAS MIPR'D FUNDS TO NSA FOR TWO TERMINALS, ONE TO SERVE AS A BACKUP; THE DDI AND WATCH TERMINALS REMAIN AS LOAN EQUIPMENTS.

7. FUTURE WORKSTATIONS

The schedule for the installation of future workstations (terminals and telephones) can be developed as the additional requirements are identified. It should be understood that scheduling is entirely dependent upon the availability of communications.

8. MAINTENANCE

Maintenance agreements remain unchanged. In short, all terminal related maintenance is the responsibility of the individual users, while NSA will:

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a) Maintain 24-hour communications and crypto operations to include maintenance on software and hardware necessary for proper functioning of data and telephone services.

b) Maintain software for terminals, controllers, and main processors used by NSA for computer system network functions.

c) Maintain a 24-hour FLASHBOARD technical/operational control desk, including the maintenance of a basic record/log of operational use as well as summary outage reports.

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